



“The Veldt” by Ray Bradbury

1. Describe each of the four main **characters**:

George: _____

Lydia: _____

Peter: _____

Wendy: _____

2. What **conflicts** do the characters in the story face? Give examples.

3. Is the Happy-life Home healthy for the family? Explain.

4. How does the nursery work?

5. **Personification** is giving nonhuman, inanimate objects human feeling, traits, or actions. Give two examples of personification from the story.

6. How does Lydia feel about the house? Why?

7. Describe the scene or **setting** that the nursery is stuck on.

8. What is the **point of view** of this story? How do you know?

9. What two items are found in the nursery? To whom do they belong? Describe the condition of the items.

10. What advice does David McClean give George and Lydia? Do they follow it?

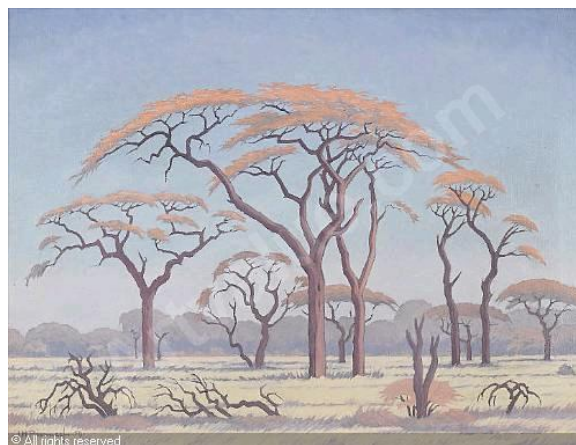
11. What mistakes have George and Lydia made in raising their children? Give examples.

12. Who is parenting the children in the story? Explain.

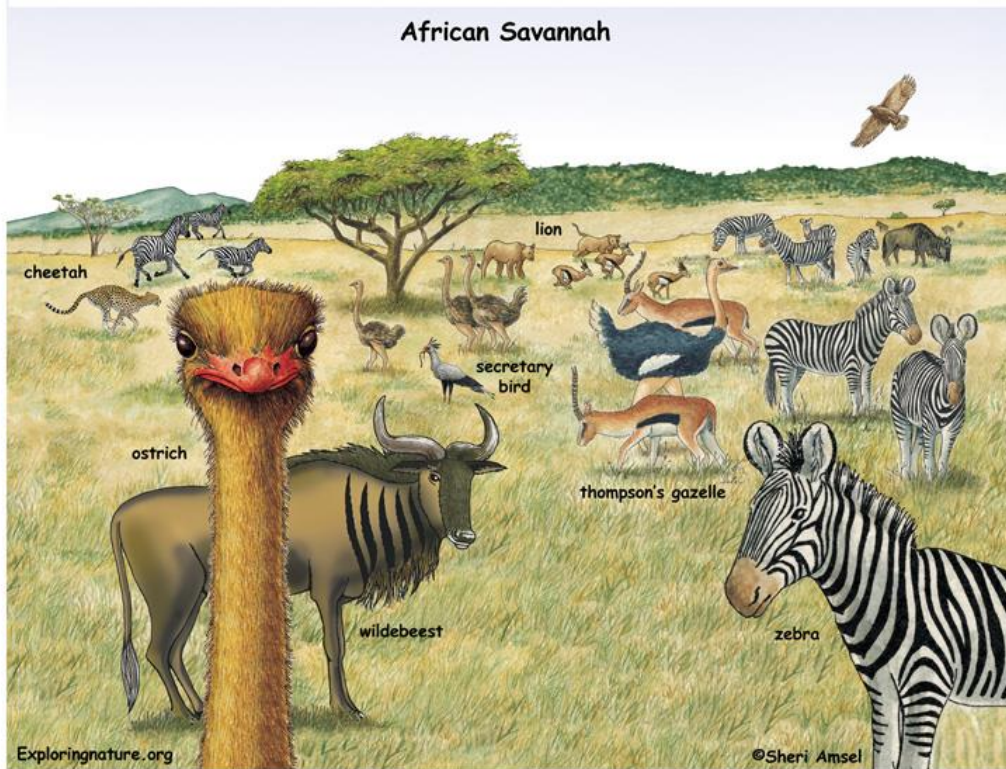
13. What message is Ray Bradbury trying to send his readers about technology? Give examples from the story to support this **theme**.

14. "The Veldt" was published in 1951. It offers a view of what Bradbury predicted family life and technology would be like around the year 2000. Is it an accurate view? Why or why not? What predictions are correct? Incorrect? What does he leave out?

15. What do you think happened at the end of the story? Why?



Nonfiction Connection: Reading Informational Text



Range

The savannah and veldt make up the central part of Africa in a band across the continent and down the middle into South Africa. Some of the countries with savannah are Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Chad, Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Botswana, and South Africa.

Habitat

In Africa, the grasslands are called savannahs and range from desert grass plains to those of trees and bushes. The veldt, typical of the interior of South Africa, is a vast area of treeless grassland. Together, this open country is home to many of the world's largest land animals.

Animals

The cheetah is the fastest land animal in the world, but it cannot run that fast for long. The lions hunt differently than the cheetah. Members of the pride work together to scare a herd of grazing animals, while a lionesses hides in the tall grass waiting to ambush a passing zebra or gazelle. When the animal is dead, the lions take turns feeding on it and guarding it while others in the pride rest or go off to drink. Jackals and hyenas are mostly scavengers, feeding on animals that are already dead. Waiting until the big cats have eaten their fill, the jackals and hyenas move in to eat what is left over. They may even scan the sky for circling turkey vulture, other scavengers, that signal an animal nearby has died. Sometimes a big group of hyenas will steal a kill from a lion or kill an animal themselves. With few trees to slow them down, animals can run great distances on the veldt. The ostrich's seven-foot

height and good eyesight give it a great advantage in seeing predators from far off. If danger is spotted, it runs! Animals on the veldt often travel in large herds. The more there are to watch and sniff the air for danger, the safer they are. That is why it is not unusual to see herds of ostriches, zebras, gazelles, and wildebeests traveling together. Living in groups is also a good way to search for food and teach the young. The termite is one of Africa's smaller animals, but it builds its home so large that they can be seen all across the savanna. The dung beetle builds its round nest in the droppings of other animals. Then it lays its eggs inside. As the offspring develop, they eat their way out of the nest. A common bird of the savanna is the weaverbird. Using long stems of grass, they weave great hanging nests. On the ground the secretary bird, named for its black-and-white suit and quill-like head feathers, hunts for mice and snakes to eat. From above, the brown harrier eagle circles, scanning the hot African plain. As always, life here is a race to find food without becoming someone else's meal.

Plants

There are few trees on the African plain, just some acacia, baobab and palm trees, among plenty of grass. Cheetahs view the vast plain from the branches of the acacia tree. A thirsty elephant tears apart a baobab tree to eat the spongy, moist inner wood.

